

## Patent



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**GROUP 3600**

In response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2003, with a shortened statutory period for reply set for three (3) months, the Office has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the groups of Claims 1-11, Claims 12-15, Claims 16-18, Claims 19-21, Claims 22-24, or Claims 25-27.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. To be fully responsive, however, Applicants elect with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-11, drawn to a dock leveler.

According to the M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The Examiner must show that there would be a serious burden if the restriction is not required. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner nowhere contends, let alone

demonstrates that a search of all the pending claims would be a serious burden. Further, at the Examiner's disposal are powerful electronic search engines providing the Examiner with the ability to quickly and easily search all of the claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims.

**AUTHORIZATION**

No extension of time fee is believed due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized, however, to charge any extension of time fee or any additional fees which may be required for this Response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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